

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

- 1 13. (Currently Amended) A grading rake, comprising:  
2 a handle having a first and a second end;  
3 a holder secured to the second end of the handle;  
4 an elongate rake head secured in a fixed position in relation to the handle by the holder;  
5 and  
6 a plurality of tines extending from the rake head for grading particulate matter, wherein  
7 an interior angle between the plurality of tines and the handle ranges from about thirty degrees to  
8 about sixty degrees;  
9 wherein the plurality of tines include a truncated end surface forming an angle with a  
10 longitudinal axis of the handle ranging from about plus ten degrees to negative ten degrees.
- 1 14. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the rake head is  
2 substantially cylindrical.
- 1 15. (Canceled)
- 1 16. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the truncated end  
2 surfaces of the tines are substantially parallel with the handle.
- 1 17. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the truncated end  
2 surfaces of the tines form an angle with an axis of the tines ranging from about thirty to about  
3 sixty degrees.
- 1 18. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the holder includes  
2 an arcuate curve complementing a surface of the elongate rake head.

1 19. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 18, further including at least  
2 one fastener for securing the rake head to the holder.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of  
2 tines extend through holes in the rake head.

1 21. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 19, further including a plurality  
2 of fasteners for releasably securing the plurality of tines to the rake head.

1 22. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of  
2 tines are substantially cylindrical.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 22, wherein the plurality of  
2 tines have a diameter ranging from about 0.25 to about 0.5 inch.

1 24. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of  
2 tines are uniformly spaced apart from about 0.5 to about 1.5 inch.

1 25. (Currently Amended) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of tines  
2 are formed from a stiff but flexible polymer.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 25, wherein the polymer  
2 includes nylon.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 25, wherein the plurality of  
2 tines flex about 0.5 to about 1 inch at a free end with respect to an end secured by the rake head  
3 without breaking.

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2 28. (Currently Amended) A grading rake, comprising:  
3 a handle having a first end and a second end;  
4 a holder secured to the second end of the handle;  
5 a substantially cylindrical rake head substantially perpendicularly secured to the handle  
6 by the holder; and  
7 a plurality of tines extending from holes in the rake head having respective truncated end  
8 surfaces, wherein an interior angle between the plurality of tines and the handle ranges from  
9 about thirty degrees to about sixty degrees and an angle between the truncated end surfaces and  
10 the handle ranges from minus ten degrees and positive ten degrees.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the truncated end  
2 surfaces are substantially parallel to the handle.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the truncated end  
2 surfaces form an angle with respective tine axes ranging from about thirty degrees and about  
3 sixty degrees.

1 31. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the plurality of  
2 tines extend from holes formed through the rake head.

1 32. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 31, further including removable  
2 fasteners for securing the plurality of tines.

1 33. (Currently Amended) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the plurality of tines  
2 are formed from a stiff but flexible polymer material that is stiff and capable of flexing at a free  
3 end without permanently deforming.

1 34. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 33, wherein the plurality of  
2 tines flex from about 0.5 inch to about 1 inch at the free end with respect to an end secured by  
3 the rake head without breaking.

1 35. (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the plurality of  
2 tines are substantially cylindrical having a diameter ranging from about 0.25 inch to about 0.5  
3 inch.

1 36 (Previously Presented) The grading rake according to claim 35, wherein the plurality of tines  
2 include nylon.

1 37. (Currently Amended) A method of grading particulate matter, comprising:  
2 pushing particulate matter with a grading rake; and  
3 pulling the particulate matter with the grading rake such that cylindrical nylon tines  
4 extending from a rake head flex from about 0.5 inch to about 1 inch at a free end such that the  
5 tines separate relatively large particles from smaller particles, wherein a truncated end surface of  
6 the tines travels across a surface of the particulate matter,  
7 wherein the truncated end surfaces form an angle with a handle of the grading rake  
8 ranging from about positive ten degrees and minus ten degrees, and the plurality of tines form an  
9 interior angle with a handle of the rake ranging from about thirty degrees to about sixty degrees.

1 38. (Cancelled)

1 39. (Cancelled)